

► **FREE**

Ben Zephaniah at the Euclid

Issue #72

March 26 to April 8

Toronto's Anarchist Bi-Weekly **Ecomedia**

BULLETIN

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JUST SAY NO TO COLUMBUS
CELEBRATIONS



"THE DEGREE OF CIVILIZATION
IN A SOCIETY CAN BE JUDGED
BY ENTERING ITS PRISONS."

GRAPO Hunger Strike Critical

CANADIAN ACTIVISTS SHOW SOLIDARITY

Forty-two political prisoners in Spain are still on hungerstrike to demand release from isolation units and an end to a campaign of repression aimed at them. The prisoners, mostly members of GRAPO (October 1st Revolutionary Anti-Fascist Groups) have been on strike since November 30. Thirty of them are currently in critical condition and may have mere days to live.

In response, the Anarchist Black Cross (Toronto), the Wimmin

Prisoner's Survival Network and Neither East Nor West (Toronto) staged a demonstration outside the Spanish consulate on March 20. Thirty people, each representing one of the hunger strikers in critical condition, lined up in front of the consulate at Bay and Bloor. While one person made a statement over a megaphone, another rang a bell at regular intervals, at which point the demonstrators "died" one by one, until all were lying dead at the foot of the consulate.

In Vancouver, the Black Cross also held a picket of the Spanish consulate and then set up camp on Commercial Drive, where people began rotating 24-hour solidarity fasts March 20.

GRAPO prisoners are inside for acts of resistance against the so-called social-democratic Spanish state. GRAPO began fighting in 1975 in response to the execution of anti-fascist prisoners by Franco's dicta-

TORONTO COPS BEAT WOMYN

The Woman's Coalition Against Racism and Police Violence, formed last November after a cop shot and wounded a Black womyn, is now supporting Kay Poon, a 50 year-old immigrant from Hong Kong. Poon was beaten by two cops, a man and a womyn, last November 23 after her car was pulled over by a police cruiser while she was on dinner break with a

Vietnamese co-worker. Poon was arrested and charged with assaulting the womyn cop and causing a disturbance. When Poon was finally taken to hospital, the nurse on duty recognized the womyn cop as one who had previously brutalized people she arrested. The nurse urged Poon to lay charges.

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UPDATE ON JOHN PEROTTI HUNGERSTRIKE

John Perotti, Michael Day and Sudun Swafford, the three Ohio prisoners who began a hunger-strike February 14, are all off hunger-strike at this moment. Perotti was transferred just prior to the strike to the Lebanon correctional facility in Ohio, one week after a serious beating by guards.

Currently Perotti is allowed only one visit (from his mother only) every month. Linda Leisure, acting as his Minister, is not allowed to see him. She is one of his main support workers. He is also not being allowed phone calls. Perotti's mother reports that he is in bad condition and not receiving medical treatment in the wake of both the beating and the hungerstrike.

In light of this situation, the Anarchist Black Cross (New York) has initiated an emergency response with the following demands:

- 1) That John Perotti be given immediate medical attention
- 2) That John Perotti be allowed visiting rights, specifically in regards to Linda Leisure, his minister.

The ABC (NY) is asking that people phone or write the warden of the Lebanon Correctional Facility to pressure him to give in to these demands. Direct your anger to:

Warden William Dallman
Lebanon Correctional Facility
P.O. Box 56
45036 USA
tel: (513) 932-1211

POON ON TRIAL (Continued from pg. 1)

Poon attempted three times to lay charges with a Justice of the Peace, and was refused. This left her no alternative but to lay a complaint with the Public Complaints Commission, which has no power to lay charges against police but can only make disciplinary recommendations to the Chief of Police. The Commission will not complete its investigation until 2 or 3 months after Poon's trial.

Poon appeared in court on Feb. 23, represented by civil rights lawyer Paul Copeland. Members of the Women's Coalition were out in force to observe the trial. During the morn-

ing long cross examination both officers involved could "not recall" details and continuously referred to their notebooks. Copeland found an almost identical phrase in both notebooks: bystanders "were watching intensely/intently and appeared disturbed by the female's screaming." Poon was screaming loudly "with a heavy accent" and for this she was arrested for causing a disturbance. The trial continues March 26 when a video of Poon's booking and release from 14 Division will be shown.

(Bulldozer, Jan/Feb. 1990)

GOLDMAN PLAY CATCHES ANARCHIST SPIRIT

Carol Bolt's play Red Emma, Queen of the Anarchists will be presented Wednesdays-Sundays at the Alumnae Theatre, 70 Berkeley Street (southwest corner of Berkeley and Adelaide) until April 7. Tickets are \$10, and can be arranged by calling 364-4170 or 929-3878. The play focuses on her early activism in New York from 1887 to 1892, and attempt to help Alexander Berkman to assassinate the union-busting slimemeister Henry Clay Frick. Hired by Andrew Carnegie to smash the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers, Frick locked out the Homestead workers and evicted their families from company house. When the fired

workers tried to resist use of scab labour, they were fired upon by Pinkerton agents.

The play is hostile to anarchism, suggesting at the end that the failure of the assassination attempt and the irascibility of Goldman's original mentor Johannn Most show that anarchy doesn't work. Nonetheless, the play captures the spirit, as well as the eccentricity, of the Anarchists and enlists our sympathy with their attempt to defend the workers. It is punctuated with song and excerpts from Goldman's speeches, and makes us want to learn more about the movement.

GRAPO Hungerstrike Critical

(Continued from pg. 1)

torship.

Inside prison these guerillas maintain a collective life, conditions which were gained through a 1981 hungerstrike which left one GRAPO member dead. The Spanish state has been taking that away with transfers and isolation tactics, to which the GRAPO prisoners and others responded with a renewed hungerstrike. Although the government agreed to the demands last fall, they quickly reneged after election time, and began a renewed campaign of torture and harassment. The hungerstrike resumed. The demands of the current hungerstrike include an end to the repression and dispersal of prisoners, and an end to force-feeding.

As of March 24 all prisoners that have been in hospital are being transferred to various prisons (part of the dispersal plans of the government).

Despite the extremely critical conditions of the hungerstrikers they are not being transported in ambulances but in police cars. At least one of the prisoners was beaten by police en route to prison.

None have died but the whereabouts and condition of one of the prisoners is unknown at this time. The other forty-one are being forced. They have been cut off from access to their lawyers and members of the immediate family are allowed to visit only once a week for twenty minutes. Apparently the government plans to keep them in a near vegetable state for as long as possible, prolonging their agony.

Demonstrations still continue but their size and effectiveness has been decreasing due to a boycott of the hungerstrike and related issues by the Spanish press. We can put

pressure on the Spanish government to end this extermination by writing the address below:

Antonio Asuncion
Direccion General de Instituciones
Penitenciarias
Ministerio de Justicia
Calle San Bernardo / 47 Madrid
28015 Espana

Another protest is planned for March 27 at 5:00 pm in front of the Spanish Consulate. For more information or updates call the Anarchist Hotline 535-5731.



**WIMMIN • PRISONERS
SURVIVAL • NETWORK**

PHOENIX RISING MAGAZINE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

Phoenix Rising, an alternative antipsychiatry magazine in Toronto, needs more people to join its editorial collective. We are looking for two or three more people who have been psychiatrized or "treated" by psychiatrists and have some experience and abilities relevant to a magazine. We immediately need a person with business and administrative skills to help us run our small office in downtown Toronto. This business job is a volunteer one - we have no money to pay salaries. Our hours are very flexible and reason-

able.

We plan to resume publishing next spring with our first theme issue on gays and lesbians in the psychiatric system. If interested, please send us a copy of your resume and mail to:

Phoenix Rising
Box 165, Station A
Toronto, Ontario
M5W 1B2

Also: can you call us at: (416) 929-2079 or 461-7909.

Special announcement: We immediately need submissions for our special summer issue featuring Gays and Lesbians as Victims of the Psychiatric System. So, if you or a friend have been such a victim of this oppressive-brutal system, please send us a personal story, poem, illustration, etc. Deadline: March 15, 1990.

Or you can drop in to our office in the basement of 394 Euclid Ave. and feel free to call us: 929-2079. Thanks!

THE NEWS IN BRIEF

MEXICO-The Mayan Indians of Mexico have issued a manifesto to the town of Palenque and visitors denouncing the forcible displacement of inhabitants of several rural communities from their lands by the government, without any explanation. The cattle ranchers and troops who carried out this action then burned their houses, and the governor responsible has ignored requests for explanations or discussion. This action followed delivery of the legal documents required to acquire the land to the secretary of agrarian reform in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas and Mexico city. Supporters are asked to send letters to the Mexican consulate.

VANCOUVER-Despite opposition of self-proclaimed "religious leaders," Gay Games II and Cultural Festival is scheduled to open here in August with over 5,500 gay and lesbian athletes participating. A similar gathering has already been held in San Francisco, following successful action by the U.S. Olympic Committee to prevent the event from being called the "Gay created fears that, if the Olympics are held in Toronto in 1996, there will be a series of raids on gay and lesbian establishments similar to those launched in Montreal prior to the 1976 Olympics.

OTTAWA-Greg Meadows of the Ottawa LETSsystem has responded to our report (Ecomedia #68,) in which we supported the barter concept but expressed fears that the transactions would be subject to federal taxation. Greg sent us a copy of Revenue Canada's Taxation Interpretation Bul-

letin #IT-490, which indicates that barter transactions will be taxed only when the goods or services provided are part of the provider's regular occupation or profession. He adds that to date no members have been contacted by Revenue Canada, and that personally he dislikes calling Lets a barter system because barter gives the impression of an exchange of equal value between two parties, whereas LETS permits participants to earn from certain members and to buy from others.

CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 28, 7:30PM: Azania/South Africa/Zuid Afrika — What Next?, a second public forum by Azania Now and Kensington Market Drum. Cecil Community Centre, 58 Cecil St.

To April 7: play, Red Emma Queen of the Anarchists by Carol Bolt, at the Alumnae Theatre. 364-4170, 929-3878. (see article.)

Sunday, April 1: Anarchist Women's Tea, a meeting for anarcha-feminist wimmin. For info on time and place phone 535-5731 and leave a message.

Tuesday, April 3, 9 AM: "Reverence for Life" forum, in which First Nations People voice their concern about the future of Mother Earth, on the steps of Queen's Park. Guest speakers include Gord Peters, Daniel Ashini, Vern Harper, and many more. Call (416) 588-0555 for more info.

Tuesday, April 3: Benjamin Zephaniah, the incredible British dub poet,

at the Bamboo with Mother Tongue, admission \$10. Also he will be reading at the Euclid theatre, 394 Euclid Ave., April 8, 4:00 pm Free!

Wed April 4, 8pm: Anarchist Men's Anti-Sexism meeting (also affectionately known as the Boy's Club). For info on time and place call 535-5731 and leave a message.

Friday April 6: Steal This Book, Celtic Gales at the Cameron.

For other upcoming events call the Anarchist Hotline 535-5731.

About Last Issue...

Some observant people, or those who have a subscription, will have noticed that we have had a two week break in between issues. This is due to staff shortages and burn-out. This issue we're back to normal and hopefully will continue on with our regular bi-weekly schedule. For those who missed us during the space between issues, don't forget you can catch us on radio every Wednesday and Friday.

Ecomedia Toronto

Ecomedia is an international "wire service" that acts as an alternative to regular news services. We focus on news and often censored information on autonomous and anarchist resistance and analysis of current events.

Ecomedia Toronto is a local office involved in three main projects: a radio show every Wednesday on CKLN 88.1 FM between 7 and 8 pm on the "Word of Mouth" program; also another radio spot at 12:15am on CIUT 89.5 FM; and the bulletin in your hands. Published bi-weekly and free at locations around the city; subscriptions are \$15/yr (26 issues) mailed monthly to cut costs. Order from the address on the front with cheques or M.O.'s payable to Ecomedia.